

unit commanders to limit the dissemination of information likely to be contained in news reports.

Perhaps more important than the embed plan itself is the extent to which journalists not embedded with U.S. troops will be allowed to move and gather news freely. To date, U.S. officials have offered no convincing guarantees that "unilateral" reporting, or reports by nonembedded journalists, will be allowed to proceed without interference. Pentagon officials have stated that they anticipate the presence of unilateral reporters in a potential military theater, and military units that encounter journalists will treat them "like any other civilian person found on the battlefield." Officials, however, have never provided details or assurances about the kind of access unilateral reporters would experience on or around the battlefield but instead have warned journalists about the dangers associated with not embedding.

Lastly, CPJ is concerned for the safety of the significant number of journalists who will likely be working in Baghdad should conflict erupt. While we are worried about possible threats from Iraqi authorities, who detailed and imprisoned several international correspondents during the 1991 Gulf War, we also fear that foreign reporters working in Baghdad could be endangered by U.S. air strikes. We note with concern that U.S. and NATO forces have targeted local broadcast facilities in previous conflicts, including the 1999 strike on the offices of the Yugoslav state broadcaster RTS television. Furthermore, your office has failed to assuage the concerns highlighted in our January 31, 2002, letter requesting clarification on the November 2001 U.S. military strike that destroyed the offices of the Arabic language broadcaster Al-Jazeera in Kabul, Afghanistan. We remind you that statements made by Pentagon officials to U.S. media representatives on February 28, 2003, warning of the potential dangers to unilateral reporters operating in Iraq do not absolve U.S. forces of their responsibility to avoid endangering media operating in known locations.

Today, hundreds of journalists are preparing to cover what could be a potentially hazardous assignment in Iraq and the Persian Gulf should the U.S. decide to attack Iraq. Despite these inherent dangers, journalists have an obligation to report the news, especially in times of war, when public information is crucial. Any U.S. military action must take into account the safety of working journalists and their ability to work freely. As an independent organization of journalists dedicated to defending press freedom worldwide, we urge you to take the following actions to make certain that journalists covering a possible war with Iraq can do so freely and safely: Ensure that journalists operating within the embed system be allowed the maximum possible freedom to report; provide public assurance to journalists who will be reporting outside the embed system that the U.S. military will not interfere in their work and will impose only those restrictions absolutely necessary to ensure the safety of U.S. military personnel and operations; refrain from targeting broadcast and other media operating in Baghdad; and ensure that maximum precaution is taken to avoid harm to journalists operating in known locations in potential military theaters.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. We await your response.

Sincerely,

JOEL SIMON,  
*Acting Director.*

## CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, surely he came to save that which was lost.

As the father of two beautiful daughters, I was elated last night to see a little girl by the name of Elizabeth Smart lost 9 months ago to her family and her community restored to hearth and home. It was an awesome sight and a reunion that is difficult to imagine in its joy this side of eternity.

As a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and as the author of legislation protecting children from Internet pornographers, Madam Speaker, I am delighted to report this week against the backdrop of that awesome news Congress was caught doing something. It is truly astonishing.

In the midst of the disappearance of Elizabeth Smart and far too many others, last year Congress passed the Child Abduction Prevention Act, taking strong action to prevent child kidnappings in the future. It included a national Amber alert. But sadly, the Senate failed to act on that important legislation. Undeterred, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENBRENNER), was already moving this bill last week when public vigilance restored Elizabeth Smart to her family.

Different from action in the other body earlier today, that creates a national coordinator that already exists within the Justice Department and a voluntary national Amber alert. The Child Abduction Prevention Act that was already marked up last week and scheduled for consideration in the Committee on the Judiciary this coming week creates a national Amber alert communication network. It gives the judicial branch the ability to impose life sentences for child sex offenders, creates a mandatory life sentence for two strike offenders. It eliminates the statute of limitation for child abduction and it doubles Federal funds to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

There is real substance in the Child Abduction Prevention Act. This is a time against the backdrop of this extraordinarily joyous news that we in Washington need legislation, not symbolism and photo ops. To the family of Elizabeth Smart and her brave and courageous parents, may the Lord bless your reunion. But to my colleagues, let us seize this historic occasion of joy to pass meaningful legislation. Let us move the Child Abduction Prevention Act among my colleagues on the Committee on the Judiciary, and as swiftly as is possible, let us move it to the floor of the House of Representatives and to the President's desk. Our children, including Elizabeth Smart, deserve no less.

## PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, 108TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of Rule XI, I hereby submit for the RECORD the Committee on House Administration's Rules for the 108th Congress. The Committee Rules were adopted by the Committee on House Administration on February 5, 2003.

### RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

#### RULE NO. 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day is a privileged motion in the Committee.

(b) The Committee is authorized at any time to conduct such investigations and studies as it may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities under House Rule X and, subject to the adoption of expense resolutions as required by House Rule X, clause 6, to incur expenses (including travel expenses) in connection therewith.

(c) The Committee is authorized to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the Committee, and to distribute such information by electronic means. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the Committee shall be paid from the appropriate House account.

(d) The Committee shall submit to the House, not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, a report on the activities of the Committee under House Rules X and XI during the Congress ending at noon on January 3 of such year.

(e) The Committee's rules shall be published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than 30 days after the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

#### RULE NO. 2: REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting date of the Committee on House Administration shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House is in session in accordance with Clause 2(b) of House Rule XI. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Committee (hereinafter in these rules referred to as the "Chairman") as he may deem necessary or at the request of a majority of the members of the Committee in accordance with Clause 2(c) of House Rule XI. The determination of the business to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chairman subject to Clause 2(c) of House Rule XI. A regularly scheduled meeting may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chairman, there is no need for the meeting.

(b) If the Chairman is not present at any meeting of the Committee, or at the discretion of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman of the Committee shall preside at the meeting. If the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee are not present at any meeting of the Committee, the ranking member of the majority party who is present shall preside at the meeting.

#### RULE NO. 3: OPEN MEETINGS

As required by Clause 2(g), of House Rule XI, each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, of the Committee, shall be open to the public except when the Committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to